

REMARKS

With the foregoing amendment, Applicant, in effect, has replaced the original claims 1-97 with new claims 98-173. It is believed that these claims are patentable over the prior art. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and action toward a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Clean Version of the Amendment to the Specification

Prior to the first line of the specification and after the title, please enter the following:

Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/872,905, filed on June 1, 2001, entitled "Tissue Distraction Device" in the name of the same inventors, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/274,372, filed on March 8, 2001.